



CITY OF ANSONIA BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Special Meeting – January 10, 2012

Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the Ansonia Board of Aldermen was called to order at 7 p.m. by Aldermanic President Gene Sharkey. All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Moment of Silence

President Sharkey asked for everybody to remain standing and observe a moment of silence in memory of John Adzima. He stated, John Adzima was a very well known and hard working member of the City of Ansonia. He worked on many boards, all for the good of the citizens of Ansonia.

Roll Call

The secretary called the roll:

Edward Adamowski, D1- present
Robert Duffus, D1 - absent
Charles Stowe, R2 - present
Philip Tripp, R2 - present
Joseph Jeanette, D3- present
Patricia Macero, D3- absent
Robert Beall, D4 - present

Jerome Fainer, D4 - present
Howard Madigosky, D5 - present
Joan Radin, R5 - present
Scott Nihill, D6 - absent (7:06)
Gene Sharkey, D6 - present
David Knapp, D7- present
John Marini, R7 - present

President Sharkey declared a quorum of 11 present, 3 absent.

Consideration of Previous Minutes

Organizational Meeting of December 13, 2011

- President Sharkey noted that Alderman Macero was listed as a Republican from the Third Ward and should be listed as a Democrat; Alderman Radin was listed as a Democrat from the Fifth Ward and should be listed as a Republican.

Alderman Radin MOVED to accept the minutes of the Organizational Meeting of December 13, 2011 as corrected; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Regular Meeting of December 13, 2011

- Alderman Fainer noted that on page 49 of the minutes, it is correctly recorded, the statement was made, but he would just like to let it be known that he was never on the Economic Development Commission and has never overseen it, like the statement that was made.
- Alderman Radin corrected Page 57, on the last vote that was taken after the Executive Session, she voted "No". The vote should have been 10 Yes, 1 No (Radin).
- Alderman Knapp noted that on Page 28 at the bottom, there was a vote taken with regard to videotaping meetings. He noted, for the record, that he was not opposed to videotaping the meetings, but was opposed to sending it to the committee and have the committee to have the authority to make decisions without reporting back to the full Board. It was a no vote; this is the explanation for the no vote.

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 13, 2011 as corrected; SECONDED by Alderman Marini. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Public Session

President Sharkey stated, before we start, I think we should have a rule of order, or rule of the house. We had discussed in a subcommittee the fact that we wanted to limit public discussions to three minutes. If the Board so feels that it entails, they can vote to extend it up to five minutes, but I think we should set that as a rule of order before we start.

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to limit the Public Session to three minutes per speaker, extendable to five minutes by a vote of the Board; SECONDED by Alderman Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

[Alderman Nihill arrives at this point, 7:06 p.m. 12 present 2 absent.]

Mary Gibson, 16 Arbor Terrace, Member, Ansonia Cultural Commission

I ran the "Deck Your House and Yard" Contest this past season. I am proud to say that we had 23 families enter and I had six or eight judges and we went to all the houses and we judged and we stapled a red ribbon on each Ward's winner. We chose one from each Ward; well we didn't choose, the numbers came out so that each Ward had a winner. I then took it upon myself and the committee's agreement to have certificates and blue ribbons made for the winners and I'd like to present them tonight so that they can be recognized through their Ward. Although if someone would like to make the presentation for me, that's fine.

First Ward winners: Fred Baker and Paula Abbati from 12 West Brookside Avenue.

Second Ward winners: Ron and Carolyn Steeves from 191 Prospect Street.
Third Ward winners: Christine Boulay from 28 William Street
Fourth Ward, we didn't have any entrants, but I will take care of that for next year - I will call those Aldermen and get them going on it.
Fifth Ward winners: John and Ann Marie Checkley, 209 Wakelee Avenue.
Sixth Ward winners: Bill Webster of 48 Highland Avenue
Seventh Ward Winners: Robert Meyernick, 7 Birchwood Drive.
City Wide Winner was Robert Meyernick of 7 Birchwood Drive.

Applause rang throughout the forum.

Ken Plavnicky, 15 Mountain View Road

There is a vehicle driving around town and it says AFD4 on it; are we paying for these vehicles to drive around? AFD4, Ansonia Fire Department 4.

Alderman Fainer stated, that is my personal vehicle. That is a vanity plate. It says Veteran on it; it doesn't say City of Ansonia. That is my vehicle.

Mr. Plavnicky stated, I didn't say it said City of Ansonia. I said it said AFD4.

Alderman Fainer stated, That's my license plate. It's a red Jeep.

Mr. Plavnicky said, okay, thank you. Just checking. I see it all over town okay?

Alderman Fainer stated, what, I can't drive around town?

Mr. Plavnicky stated, I don't care where you go. I just wanted to know if we're paying for it. I see it all over town. Thanks.

Also, too, this Fire Museum; our budget season is coming up and what's going with this fire museum? Are we paying? Are we going to put it online and pay for it or what? What's in there? Fire trucks or toys? What's in there? Can anybody answer that?

President Sharkey replied, I can. You've asked that question at least four other meetings and you've been given the same answer all four meetings. That was addressed also in our budget hearings. You are welcome to come to the budget hearings. The question was asked, the question was answered at the budget hearings and you've been given that answer at least four times. You're playing to the Public right now to get the same answer that you've gotten at least four times.

Mr. Plavnicky asked, well do we need this? Do we need this Fire Museum? Money will be real tight; do we need it?

President Sharkey replied, yes, I've given you your answer four times.

Alderman Radin asked, President Sharkey can you give me the answer? I probably wasn't here when you said that.

President Sharkey replied, okay yes I will; I will give it again. The museum is part of a three-part group that took over the old Pine-Willis School. The property was built on property that was donated by Charles H. Pine. Charles H. Pine donated the property and he left it in his will that the property had to be used for some part for education for children of the City of Ansonia. At the time, the Boys and Girls Club wanted to turn it into a Boys and Girls Club and in order to get federal funds they had to seek out other partnerships. They went to the federal government to find out what they needed. They were told that if they had the YMCA and they had part of a municipal organization then it would succeed. They sought out the people at the museum to ask us. In fact, the night they had their organizational meeting, they invited the Mayor and they invited myself to go to it. So we became part of it. The Board of Aldermen years ago; first, the Board of Education when they had the building, gave the Fire Department lifetime use of that section of the building. It was in the minutes of the Board of Education. They gave it for storage of equipment; they gave just that one little section. Then they turned the building over to the City of Ansonia. The City of Ansonia eventually sold the building to the Boys and Girls Club with part of the stipulation that the Ansonia Fire Museum would be part of the group. They have a 99-year lease on that section of the building. The only thing the City of Ansonia pays is the utilities in that building and they pay for trying to complete it as a museum. The reason they have to pay the utilities is all of the sprinkler system for the entire building is located in that museum; it was the only place they could put it. That was designed there by the Boys and Girls Club's architect. So heat has to be maintained in that building to keep the pipes from freezing. It is only 40 degrees in that building, that's all it is. Many of the Aldermen have been there, have seen the building and it is the intention to eventually open it when we can finish it. It is a very minimal expense; it's only \$6,000 a year by the City of Ansonia. Most of which is for the heat.

Mr. Plavnicky asked, are there personal vehicles in there?

President Sharkey replied, no, there aren't. You've been told that several times; you've been supplied with the registrations of those vehicles.

Mr. Plavnicky stated, I have not. From six months ago to now there could be changes.

President Sharkey stated, there are no personal vehicles in there.

Mr. Plavnicky stated, okay. Just the last thing: what you guys did to Mr. Cassetti last night was terrible, terrible, lousy politics. I go to all of the Board of Police Commission meetings and I see Mr. Cassetti there doing a heck of a job. He has a million dollar business here in town, he's a very hardworking man and I just think it was terrible what you guys did to him. Okay? Thank you.

Randolph Carroll, 40 Fourth Street, Chairman, Historical Commission

About the Fire Museum. I'm all for it. I personally have salvaged things out of buildings in this town that have been torn down and the things that have been salvaged have disappeared. So, if we're preserving anything in this town I am all for it. The Historical Commission has been asking for a repository for over 10 years and we're still asking for it. So, I just want to go on record as the Chairman of the Historical Commission that I am all for it. If you are preserving antique Firemen's things, God bless it. Thank you.

Edward Musante, 138 Old Ansonia Road, Seymour

The back of my house is on Castle Lane. I called Public Works in October, November for the people at house 3; the sewer had been backing up and he said to me, "It's on the list. We'll get to it, we'll get to it." I walked by there the other day, it still hasn't been cleaned and the curbing has to get raised because it ruined his driveway. He has a business that is why he could not show up. It's down there at house 3, Patel. I called him a couple times in October and November. He said it's on the list, it's on the list.

President Sharkey asked, excuse me can you say when you talked to "him," who is "him"?

Mr. Musante replied, dispatcher.

President Sharkey replied, okay. We will make sure the message is given.

Alderman Adamowski asked, what was the house number again?

Mr. Musante replied, 3.

President Sharkey said, Eddie you'll take care of that.

Alderman Adamowski replied, yes.

President Sharkey stated, thank you.

President Sharkey asked three times if any other member of the public wished to address the Board. Being none, Alderman Jeanette MOVED to close the Public Session; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Public Official Session

Mayor James Della Volpe

First of all, I'd like to commend the Cultural Commission on their "Deck your House and Yard." You guys did a great job and certainly put Ansonia in the holiday spirit. I'd like to thank Judy Nicolari and Mary Gibson who are Cultural Commission members that are here tonight; thank you.

Rosa DeLauro and Chris Murphy, members of Congress, are going to be at the Woodbridge Avenue Memorial this Thursday at 1 p.m. to discuss the Protect the Veterans Memorials Act. The City, myself has been working with Mayor Staffieri and Mayor Lauretti and along with the Valley Community Foundation to form a fund to restore the monuments for our communities. We hope to have all of the final details worked out so that they may be announced at the Press Conference on Thursday. If it rains or snows, it's going to be held here in the Aldermanic Chambers at 1 o'clock this Thursday.

I'd like to bring the attention to the Aldermen to please monitor your Wards for bulk and blight. A couple weeks ago, with the help of the Anti-blight Committee, we met with Jim Tanner, the blight officer, the Zoning Enforcement Officer and he went out with the police officers and was very effective in getting material off the streets and giving out tickets and I think it got the attention of the neighborhoods that they did go to. So, hopefully you will make those reports to the Public Works and/or the Zoning Enforcement Officer's office.

There will be a community dinner held by the Master's Table Community Meals; this is for people who are down and out. They have it once a month and it's at Christ the Episcopal Church. It's on Sunday, January 29th from 3-5. If anybody can come and volunteer and/or make any donations, they would be greatly appreciated.

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of cutting the ribbon at Hot Tamales and hopefully we have more restaurants in the future come into downtown Ansonia. I'll address any questions.

President Sharkey stated, I'd just like to reaffirm what the Mayor said to all the rest of the Aldermen. If you see something, call Public Works. That's how we increase our quality of life here. Monday, I happened to travel on my way to City Hall here and I saw three different instances where there was bulk trash out. I made a phone call and by noon hour all three were gone. So if we report them and everybody does it they'll be gone.

Alderman Tripp stated, I am very appreciative when I see Chief Hale here and the Mayor's department heads or different agency heads. There's been a few things that have come up that I have discussed with other Aldermen about things to do with Public Works and I don't know who to request, but if Mr. Mike Shryver could be here, it might be beneficial to the entire Board of Aldermen or if he would be here as a subject matter expert to answer any questions. A small example, there was a question of a pothole over on Prospect Street; it's a little

push-pull between the gas company and the City of Ansonia; small things like that but as Aldermen we want to stay on top of it. So, I don't know which one of you two gentlemen I am asking but...

Mayor Della Volpe stated, it would go through the Board; the Board would request that he be here, but I will follow up with it.

President Sharkey stated, yes, I will request that he makes the meeting or sends a representative.

Alderman Tripp thanked President Sharkey.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, I agree with you about that pothole because I hit it everyday.

President replied, speaking of that they are out working on them. We reported 12 potholes on East Main Street and within two days they were filled. They're working - when we report them they get done. If we don't report them, they stay there.

Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake

Just a report on 184 Hodge Avenue - Mr. Glander. I had two discussions with Mr. Ryan, his attorney. We gave him an extension to complete the cleanup there. It has been cleaned. Mr. Tanner has released that blight violation from the records. I contacted and also gave Mr. Ryan a copy of that today. The issue is resolved and there was no fine issued to Mr. Glander, who cleaned up what he had to clean up.

Mr. Sentimentis - I gave you a package. I reviewed my file as to what occurred. I just want to let you know I got late this afternoon, and didn't have a chance to give it to you, I did have Mr. D'Amico, the City Engineer, go out and look at the property again. He states that there is nothing he can do; it's a private matter. I am sending a copy to Mr. Sentimentis. I am also sending a copy to the Board so you'll have that.

I was in court this week on two things up on Prospect Street Extension. There's been illegal dumping and also another issue on Root Avenue, zoning violations. Both parties failed to show. In February we're going to have a court date. The judge has agreed to put it down quickly.

Chief Kevin Hale, Ansonia Police Department

At the end of the month, several of our officers will receive awards from the U.S. Attorney at City Hall in New Haven. I can get the date and time out to you. It's concerning several major cases that they've worked on in the past year.

The Mayor does it as well, but we do have a mentoring program in Ansonia, and starting in Mead School, and I'll speak on behalf of the school - that is where we need mentors. If you can spare an hour a week during the day, I know it's difficult, or if you know somebody who is willing or able to do that, we can really use the help.

Tara Kolakowski, Acting Personnel Director

The Board of Aldermen has a copy of the City Hall Bargaining Agreement. We're going to go through it in Executive Session tonight. Everyone had a chance to review it, and if you have any questions we'll discuss it. I'm hoping to get it passed tonight.

You all have the personnel report in front of you. If anyone has any questions, I'll take them at this time or later in Executive Session.

Alderman Stowe stated, on job openings, it says "prepare employment application packets" it has 19 here, and "enter applicants' employment application information into database and notify department."

Ms. Morales, the Administrative Assistant for personnel, has been entering in applications for ARMS for part-time employees at ARMS. That is her number of 19.

Committee Reports

ARMS Committee - Alderman Scott Nihill

The ARMS monthly report for December, 2011 - they were dispatched to 205 calls, transported 145 patients with 61 of them being with a medic aboard. They provided mutual aid on nine different calls. There was only one passed call. I would just like to go on record saying how the Chief down there, Mr. Jared Heon, is doing a tremendous job. He has really brought the place up to snuff. He was tasked with a tough job with the equipment he has and we're looking forward to meeting with the Board of Apportionment and Taxation and maybe coming up with some initiatives to address a desperately needed ambulance for ARMS. I just want to commend him and the rest of the staff for the job they do.

Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Marini. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Finance Committee - Alderman Edward Adamowski

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to pay all bills if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Alderman Adamowski stated, we are in the process of holding budget workshops; we're probably about halfway done.

Anti-Blight Committee- Alderman Philip Tripp

We had a meeting with the Mayor and Mr. Tanner. I'm very appreciative of Mr. Tanner's work - he went out with police officers as the Mayor just said. So there are good things starting to happen; properties are being identified and very aggressively we're going after. I am new to this position; I want to get together with Mr. Jeanette and the other four Aldermen and have a meeting soon - in the next 30 days or so. We're already starting to sink our teeth into it and I thank you for the opportunity.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Community Land Trust Committee - Alderman David Knapp

The committee met last week regarding one of the issues that came before us - a tenant issue up at the Red Wing Pond House. Some preliminary discussions went on with regard to liability, do we want to get into the rental business, handicap accessibility, employee versus tenant. So we had asked Corporation Counsel Blake to put together a letter to Donna Lindgren asking her how she feels about it, and also put together an opinion.

We also met with Tom Waldron who approached the City. He owns 5.5 acres of land adjacent to Colony Park. He is looking to see if the City would be interested in purchasing it and keeping it as open space. Right now I believe Colony Park is about 5.5 to 6 acres, so it would about double the size of Colony Park. It would probably be used for walking/hiking trails, if we get to that part there. He is going to get an appraisal and maps for us, and come back and present to the Committee.

Alderman Stowe asked, can our grant writer please do some research to see if we are eligible for some kind of grant money for that property. Every year the grants come out - we may be eligible. If there's anything I can do to help, I would be happy to help.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Tripp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Economic Development Commission - Alderman John Marini

I'd like to inform the Board that the Commission has elected a new Chairman as of last month - Mr. Vinny Scarlotta, who is actually with us tonight. He is a relatively new addition to the Economic Development Commission and right from the get-go he has proven very active, very energetic, and the Commission

is very excited to begin for the next year of the Economic Development Commission.

First up at the end of this month is the Commission's first event this year, which is a Small Business Forum. As discussed the last two years, it's really one of the goals of the Commission to act as a strong liaison between the City and the various business owners to find ways to strengthen the existing business community and to figure out from those who know best what it's going to take to bring new investors and new businesses to town. So what better way to open up a forum to let business owners come to us to not only get updates but give us their opinions - the good, the bad, the ugly - essentially getting from them their take on everything. It's scheduled for Monday, January 23, 6 p.m. at Antonio's Restaurant. We really want to extend the invitation on behalf of the Commission to all of the Aldermen and as many of the Department Heads as possible. Obviously the business owners may have many questions, some of which the Aldermen and Economic Development may be able to answer, but some of which I'm sure are going to be much better answered by say, Public Works, Planning and Zoning, Corporation Counsel Blake. So I would really like to encourage as many members, as many department heads to show up at the meeting as possible.

From this meeting we are hoping to continue something on a monthly basis. What forum, we really want to see what the businesses are interested in doing, but we hope to have monthly meetings as the Ansonia Business Council did once before, to really draw all of the businesses in Ansonia closer together.

President Sharkey stated, the only problem we have is, you, yourself and the rest of the Finance Committee will be here in a budget hearing. It's a shame that they picked that night. Other than that, it would be well attended by the Aldermen I'm sure, but the rest of us that are on the Finance Committee will be here having a hearing.

Alderman Marini stated, the date was selected long before the budget schedule was put out. Still obviously we're hoping for as many of the departments as possible to get there. I'm sure this will be the first of many sessions.

Also on the docket for Economic Development, we're looking forward to progress on the ESPN commercial that we've attracted to the Copper & Brass facility. It should be happening some time a little later in the spring.

The Commission is really looking forward to brainstorming new ideas to move Ansonia forward, in particular the idea of taking a look at a development plan for Ansonia. Revisiting the City Center Plan and the various Economic Development studies that have been done in the last 10 years, and trying to pull them all together and move us forward on the same page.

Video Recording Committee - Alderman John Marini

Alderman Sharkey asked, are you going to put off Video Recording to later in the meeting?

Alderman Marini stated, I'd like to give a little update on the Video Recording Committee. There is a Communication on the table, which is the policy that's under Chairman Robert Beall, that we've crafted as a group and is now up to vote. If you noticed, there is a camera here in the Chamber today. The consensus that was sort of reached is, we wanted to at least give the opportunity for a dry run, sort of identifying bumps that may happen along the way. We will meet as a Video Recording Committee between this meeting and the next meeting, review the tape, if it's satisfactory we could very well indeed publish this meeting as our first to public access. But if we identify any glitches, any imperfections, we could certainly table that video and make February the first video we put out to the public. But either way, I'm very happy and very proud to see us embarking in this direction - really one of the first towns in the area that's not just allowing the meetings to be taped, but doing it themselves, actually taking the steps to get the meetings filmed and put them out as part of the City government's operation.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept both the Economic Development and Video Recording reports; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Public Works Committee - Alderman David Knapp

We met regarding the new transfer station. That will go to bid shortly - within the next couple of weeks, next month. One of the other items we talked about was installing a camera up on flood control building facing the existing gazebo entrance to the Riverwalk, in light of all the thefts that have been happening at the monuments. I believe there was a small group of that committee that met with a security camera vendor and I guess he's going to come back with a price for us shortly. This may qualify for 80 percent reimbursement from the State because it is part of the Riverwalk.

President Sharkey stated, now that we've opened that floodgate on this, we'll do a further explanation of it. We're working with our grant writer and the City Engineer and Mike Schryver from Public Works, and we have to wait to get the specifications on the cameras themselves. We need to contact the State, see if we can. We withdrew the cameras from consideration because Derby said theirs didn't work whatsoever, so we had taken them out. We're trying to reinstate it. If we can reinstate it while the money is still available, so we're trying to do it. I will have something in my hands on Friday.

Alderman Knapp stated, we still have a lot of work to do there.

Alderman Jeanette asked, with all the utility poles along that road, can we look into getting some spotlights put on them to shine on the Riverwalk?

Alderman Knapp asked, does U.I still have that Light the Night Program?

Alderman Jeanette replied yes. I think it's a great program.

Alderman Fainer stated, parks are closed after sunset.

Alderman Jeanette stated, I understand that, but for vandalism and other things, I think it's a good idea. If you go through Derby's walk sometimes you see a lot of broken fences, graffiti and other things. We paid a lot of money for this and I think we should light it up and make sure nobody's out there doing anything to it.

President Sharkey stated, lets look at it and talk about it more in Committee, because we don't want to encourage people to come and walk there at night.

Alderman Jeanette stated, I'm not worried about people walking, I'm worried about people vandalizing. We've got to take care of our investments. It's a small price that I think is well worth the money.

Alderman Tripp stated, I agree with you, Joe.

Alderman Marini stated, I would like to second Alderman Jeanette's idea here. I can see it not only an issue along the Riverwalk, but I've talked about the last year or so, the train tracks and the floodwall that I talked about in connection with the graffiti. It has always irked me that if you go by at night, it is complete blackout. It's to the point where no one would be able to figure out what's going on there, whether it be graffiti or something much worse. Certainly if there is a way by grant or another way that we could secure better lighting in these public areas of the City, especially areas that are easily accessible like the Riverwalk and like the floodwall, which is very simply accessible simply by walking around the corner of a wall in the train lot parking lot. It really would add safety to the City and cut down on the vandalism, and you see it on the floodwall, I mean you could only expect that it could happen there, it could happen at the Riverwalk.

Alderman Sharkey stated, that is true. We are working in conjunction with the Police Department in looking at another camera system that may work in some of our crime areas such as the parks that he's identified, and we're researching this also. It might something that might be near the train station or any other place. We have found so far, without getting deep into it, they may be portable, may be able to be moved when we think there's a problem someplace. We've just started into that and that's a brand new initiative.

Alderman Adamowski asked, Alderman Nihill, do you guys have something similar to that in Seymour? Do you monitor parks and things like that? Maybe that's something the Committee could look at.

Alderman Nihill replied, yes, they have fixed cameras set up that are monitored at the Police Department.

President Sharkey stated, we did look and the original proposal to put cameras on our Riverwalk was going to be a monitored system. It then involved Comcast, wires had to be run, we had to figure out who was going to monitor it, where it's going to be and so on. We are not doing that; we're doing a different type of system where if there is a problem, we can go back, have access to it, and we can see a tape of what actually transpired there. We're talking about crime deterrent cameras. No one has to sit at a station and watch them 24 hours a day. Something records. They're out there now specifically for crime deterrent.

Alderman Knapp continued, we also talked about converting the Police Department and Armory from oil to gas. Gas company officials came out, did some preliminary look and see, they're going to run some numbers for us on converting those two, and down the road maybe the Library.

The leaf truck I had mentioned, the folks up on the Hilltop had asked me about it. At this stage of the game, resurrecting the old one, forget it, it's dead. Buying a new one, manpower, putting the people on it and doing it is prohibitive at this time, plus we have no place to put the leaves.

Lastly, sand distribution. If any residents of Ansonia want or need some sand they can come down to Public Works to get a couple of buckets full of sand. Even those individuals that can't get down there, we'll deliver it on an as-needed basis, emergency-type basis. I assured Mike that anybody over five I would take care of. So if we get more than five people looking for sand, I'll be delivering it for them.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Stowe. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Rewards Committee - Alderman John Marini

Alderman Tripp, Commissioners Tyszka and Goldson, and Chief Hale met on this matter last week to discuss one, the general idea of offering rewards, and two, the various reward proposals that had been proposed in the last six months. After discussion, the Committee felt comfortable with a general policy whereby this Board, if a proposal to offer a monetary reward does come up, would give the courtesy to forward that proposal first to the Rewards Subcommittee, which would exist in something similar or identical to its current form with an equal number of Aldermen and Police Commissioners, and most importantly the presence of the Police Chief there to give a recommendation, and then have that recommendation come back through the Aldermen at the following Board of Aldermen session. That policy was satisfactory to the subcommittee. In terms of the particular rewards, after discussion the subcommittee would like to refer and recommend one

resolution - the resolution to offer a reward leading to the arrest and the conviction of the individual or individuals responsible for the theft of the memorial plaques here tonight. That is on the agenda tonight. In terms of the rest of the resolutions, that is pending future discussion and recommendations of the committee.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Municipal Reports / Annual Reports

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept all municipal and annual reports, dispense with the reading and place them on file; SECONDED by Alderman Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Tax Refunds

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the refund report and pay the refunds in the amount of \$381.07 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Accidents and Claims

12-11-790 Elizabeth Gabianelli

Alderman Nihill MOVED to refer the claim to Corporation Counsel Blake and the Claims Committee; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Communications and Late Communications

Alderman Knapp MOVED to take up Items 1 and 3 together; SECONDED by Alderman Madigosky. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Communication #1

From: Attorney Timothy Dillon

Re: Denita Subdivision

President Sharkey read the communication aloud as follows:

Dear Board Members,

As attorney for Denita Estates, LLC, the developer of a subdivision located adjacent to 65 Elm Street, Ansonia, Connecticut, I request that the City of Ansonia accept the street constructed by my client, Nicholas Macero d/b/a Denita Estates, LLC, known as Gracie Lane.

All of the site development requirements have been completed pursuant to the conditions mandated by the Planning and Zoning Commission, City Engineer and Public Works Department and delineated by the Subdivision Map on record as Map 16-5 on the land records of the City of Ansonia.

President Sharkey stated, they've enclosed a quitclaim deed. We have a letter addressed to myself of which you have a copy:

Dear President Sharkey,

Please be advised pursuant to Section 2450 Code of the City of Ansonia, Denita Estates, LLC has submitted all the necessary documents the various City officials and boards have approved the acceptance of Gracie Lane as a City street. Therefore, pursuant to your actions at last month's meeting of the Board of Aldermen, Gracie Lane should be considered an accepted City street in the City of Ansonia. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kevin M. Blake

President Sharkey stated, also, we have a letter dated November 16th from Bartholomew Flaherty, Chairman of Planning and Zoning concerning Denita Estates. This is actually a copy. Fred D'Amico sent it to Planning and Zoning and said they accepted it.

Communication #3

From:

Re: Acceptance of Gracie Lane as a City Street

President Sharkey read the communication aloud as follows:

Dear Chairman Sharkey and Board Members:

At the January 03, 2012 Board of Public Works meeting, Mr. McGowan recommended to accept Gracie Lane as a City street. It meets all the specifications set forth by this department. Mr. Nicholas Macero has been in contact with this department regarding the progress being made from start to finish. Mr. Kolakowski seconded the motion.

Sincerely, John Finnucan, Chairman, Ansonia Board of Public Works

Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept Gracie Lane as City Street of the City of Ansonia; SECONDED by Alderman Nihill.

Alderman Knapp noted that the developer has met all of the City requirements and regulations.

Corporation Counsel Blake noted, subsequent to Mr. Billings letter, I spoke to him. I actually got a warranty deed that warrants that he owned that property which is now going to be a City street, and that has already been placed on the Ansonia Land Records.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Jeanette).

President Sharkey noted that Alderman Jeanette lives on Gracie Lane, and his cousin is the developer.

Communication #2
From: Video Recording Committee
Re: Video Recording Policy

VIDEO RECORDING POLICY

City of Ansonia

- I. VIDEO RECORDING COMMITTEE
 - a. The Board of Aldermen will at all times maintain a Video Recording Committee, consisting of members of the Board of Aldermen.
 - b. The video recording of Board of Aldermen meetings will be planned, coordinated and implemented by the Board of Aldermen's Video Recording Committee.
 - c. The actions and decisions of the Video Recording Committee will at all times be subject to the oversight and review of the Board of Aldermen and subject to this Video Recording Policy.
- II. VOLUNTEERS TO FILM MEETINGS
 - a. The Video Recording Committee shall be responsible for recruiting, maintaining and overseeing a pool of volunteers to perform the following tasks:
 1. Filming Board of Aldermen meetings;
 2. Ensuring that an original, unaltered copy of each filmed Board of Aldermen meeting is delivered to a secure location in City Hall at the conclusion of each meeting;
 3. Ensuring that a copy of each filmed meeting is made available to the Ansonia City Clerk within five (5) business

days following each filmed Board of Aldermen meeting;

4. Ensuring that a copy of each filmed meeting is made available to Ansonia's local public access television provider with five (5) business days following each filmed meeting;
5. Coordinating with Ansonia's local public access television provider to make meetings available for broadcast on public access television; and
6. Making copies of recorded meetings at the request of the Town clerk and/or Video Recording Committee.

- b. Volunteers will be selected at the discretion of the Video Recording Committee.
- c. Volunteers will receive no remuneration, monetary or otherwise, for their services.
- d. Volunteers will be subject to removal from their duties by the Video Recording Committee, the Board of Aldermen or the Mayor of the City of Ansonia.

III. NO COST TO THE CITY OF ANSONIA

- a. The procurement and/or use of all film equipment, including but not limited to cameras, video cassettes, memory cards and computers, must be paid for by private donations to the City of Ansonia and/or through public grants.
- b. The Video Recording Committee will not receive a budget from the City of Ansonia.
- c. The Video Recording Committee will be responsible for raising funds for the cost of recorded meetings.

IV. CHOICE OF TECHNOLOGY

- a. The specific technology used to film meetings, including choice of recording devices and equipment, will be left to the discretion of the Video Recording Committee on a meeting-to-meeting basis.

V. WHAT IS TO BE FILMED

- a. Each meeting of the Board of Aldermen will be filmed, including

but not limited to regular meetings, special meetings and organizational meetings.

- b. Each Board of Aldermen meeting will be filmed from its Call to Order until Adjournment, with the exception of Executive Sessions, which will not be filmed.

VI. MANNER OF FILMING

- a. Board of Aldermen meetings will be filmed from a static position in the public gallery, to be selected by the Video Recording Committee.
- b. A single camera will be used for filming meetings.
- c. Intentional manipulation of the camera during the filming of any meeting is prohibited. Manipulation for the purpose of this Video Recording Policy includes but is not limited to:
 - 1. The use of zoom-in or zoom-out;
 - 2. Altering the angle of the camera; and
 - 3. Using any in-camera effects.
- d. Volunteers filming Board of Aldermen meetings shall be prohibited from making any form of audible commentary on the meetings while filming is in progress.
- e. All other specifics regarding manner of filming will be left to the Video Recording Committee, subject to the review of the Board of Aldermen.

VII. VIDEO RECORDINGS TO BE UNALTERED

- a. The video recordings of Board of Aldermen meetings will not be altered in any manner, including but not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Making substantive visual changes to a recording;
 - 2. Making substantive audio changes to a recording;
 - 3. Inserting titles or text into the recording; and/or
 - 4. Using effects of any manner on the recording.

VIII. DISSEMINATION OF VIDEO RECORDINGS

- a. Recorded meetings will be made available to Ansonia's local public access television provider, as arranged for by the Video Recording Committee.
- b. Recorded meetings may be made available on the Internet.
- c. The specific details regarding the dissemination of video recordings will be at the discretion of the Video Recording Committee.

IX. COPY TO BE MAINTAINED BY THE TOWN CLERK

- a. Ansonia's Town Clerk will maintain a copy of each recorded meeting.
- b. The Town Clerk is to be provided with a copy of each recorded meeting within five (5) days after the recording has been made.
- c. A copy of each recorded meeting may be provided to the public at a cost of \$15 per video storage device (i.e. cassette, memory card, etc.).
- d. The process for copying recordings for the public will be determined by the Video Recording Committee.

X. FAILURE TO RECORD MEETINGS

- a. If, for any reason, it becomes impossible or infeasible for any meeting of the Board of Aldermen to be filmed, then the chairman of the Video Recording Committee will submit a written letter to the President of the Board of Aldermen explaining why the filming of any particular meeting could not or did not take place.

XI. INTERPRETATION OF THIS POLICY

- a. The interpretation of this Video Recording Policy will at all times be subject to the Board of Aldermen.

Alderman Nihill **MOVED** to accept the communication and accept the policy as put forth by the Video Recording Committee; **SECONDED** by Alderman Radin.

President Sharkey stated, please be aware there is still work to be done on the policy; we're still doing some things. It is in transition, but we're accepting what we have here so we can go forward with the taping. You all have a corrected copy in front of you, this is what we're accepting and voting on.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Resignations

None presented.

Appointments

President Sharkey read aloud Mayor James T. DellaVolpe’s appointments as outlined in his letter of January 5, 2012 as follows:

COMMISSION FOR ELDERLY SERVICES

Alderman Knapp MOVED to appoint Rene Caisse of 23 Berkshire Road, Camilleri replacement; term to expire 12/31/2014; SECONDED by Alderman Nihill.

Alderman	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Adamowski	X		
Duffus			
Stowe	X		
Tripp	X		
Jeanette	X		
Macero			
Beall	X		
Fainer	X		
Madigosky	X		
Radin	X		
Nihill	X		
Knapp	X		
Marini	X		
Sharkey	X		
TOTALS	12	0	0

A roll call vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions.

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Alderman Nihill MOVED to appoint Paul Heon of 12 White Oak Road, term to expire 12/31/2012; SECONDED by Alderman Fainer.

Alderman Nihill stated, we are honored to have a man of his integrity and experience to serve on our Board of Police Commissioners. He is a long-time member of the State Police; a Sergeant that led the Major Crimes Squad in the Western District. I think it’s an honor to have a man of his caliber on our Police Commission.

Alderman	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Adamowski	X		
Duffus			
Stowe	X		
Tripp	X		
Jeanette	X		
Macero			
Beall	X		
Fainer	X		
Madigosky	X		
Radin	X		
Nihill	X		
Knapp	X		
Marini	X		
Sharkey	X		
TOTALS	12	0	0

A roll call vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The appointment of David Casseti to the Economic Development Commission was withdrawn by the Mayor.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Alderman Tripp MOVED to appoint Ron Vaccaro of 515 Beaver Street; term to expire 12/31/2017; SECONDED by Alderman Stowe.

Alderman Tripp stated, he is a very accomplished young man and will be an asset to any commission he is placed on. I think this is an excellent choice for the Zoning Board of Appeals. He is a very educated young man.

Alderman	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Adamowski	X		
Duffus			
Stowe	X		
Tripp	X		
Jeanette	X		
Macero			
Beall	X		
Fainer	X		
Madigosky	X		
Radin	X		
Nihill	X		
Knapp	X		

Marini	X		
Sharkey	X		
TOTALS	12	0	0

A roll call vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions.

Alderman Radin MOVED to appoint Stephen Sobolisky of 93 North Prospect Street; term to expire 12/31/2017; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp.

Alderman	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Adamowski	X		
Duffus			
Stowe	X		
Tripp	X		
Jeanette	X		
Macero			
Beall	X		
Fainer	X		
Madigosky	X		
Radin	X		
Nihill	X		
Knapp	X		
Marini	X		
Sharkey	X		
TOTALS	12	0	0

A roll call vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions.

Resolutions

Resolution #1

Re: Theft of Memorial Plaques

RESOLUTION

By Aldermen John Marini of the 7th Ward, Charlie Stowe and Philip Tripp of the 2nd Ward, and Joan Radin of the 5th Ward, introduced the following Resolution:

Resolved,

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen recognizes an increased criminal presence in our neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen recognizes that it must act proactively to combat crime in Ansonia; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen is authorized to offer monetary awards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of criminals pursuant to Section 92 of the Ansonia City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the theft of two memorial plaques from the War Memorial located at the intersection of Woodbridge Avenue and Vesselli Court remains an unsolved crime;

HEREBY BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Ansonia Board of Aldermen, extend a public offer in the amount of TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,000) for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the theft; and

HEREBY BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this award will be split and shared equally in the event that multiple persons furnish such information; and

HEREBY BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the award, if any, will be paid from the City's Claims budget.

Alderman Marini MOVED to ADOPT Resolution #1; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Unfinished Business

1. Francis Teodosio / City of Ansonia UPSEU/Local 424 - Unit 28
Municipal Employees Collective Bargaining Agreement

Alderman Adamowski moved to take Item 1 up in Executive Session; SECONDED by Alderman Nihill. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

2. Preliminary Report - Sewer Backup at 65 Clark Street

President Sharkey stated, I have a preliminary report for all of the Aldermen on the sewer backup we had at 65 Clark Street. It was brought to our attention. I would like to pass these out. The report says:

Charles Corson, PE of UIC arrived at the site at 10:30 a.m. on January 6, 2012. Onsite New England Pipe Cleaning Company (NEPCCO) had three men and two trucks being assisted by the Department of Public Works Vac truck and the operator.

NEPCCO was trying to CCTV from Manhole #E-255 to #E254, but depth of flow was too deep. The vac truck used a cleaning jet to clean the line allowing the CCTV to tape this 120 feet of sewer. Two full buckets, which are five gallon, of stones, sand and debris were removed at Manhole #E-254. Cleaning with a jet was continued with the flow through Manhole #E-253a, that's previously been lined, to Manhole #E-253, another 60 feet. NEPCCO removed two more buckets from Manhole #E-253a and three or more buckets from Manhole #E-253.

Sewage flow then appeared to have no obstruction. Work was terminated just before noon. Sand or rocks were black, indicating it has been in the pipe for some time.

President Sharkey stated, I think we may have solved the problem. This is a preliminary report; we will get the full report once the engineering company is able to look at the actual tape. At least it appears we may have cleared the obstruction.

Alderman Tripp asked, how did the rocks and stones get in the sewer line?

President Sharkey replied, we think there is actually an infiltration someplace. In many areas there are. Many areas of the City, this pipe is probably 100 years old. It's the old, clay pipe. We think there actually may be cracks in places, and places where it's just infiltration into the pipe itself. We may end up having to, if we have another problem, reline, like you see, there's 40 feet that's been relined already. We may have to reline that section.

Alderman Stowe stated, Ms. Vannostrand called me tonight and thanked the Public Works for what they've done. I guess the Public Works has said that they are going to check it after some time goes by. They were very thankful and wanted me to mention that.

New Business

President Sharkey stated, I would like to appoint an Energy Committee, starting with a committee of myself, Alderman Fainer, Alderman Tripp...

Corporation Counsel Blake interjected, this is a special meeting and you really can't put new business on.

President Sharkey asked, why is it a special meeting?

Corporation Counsel Blake replied, because of the time in terms of scheduling for the year of each meeting. This is a special meeting and you can't add anything new on it.

President Sharkey stated, okay, I will bring it up next month. In the meantime I will be contacting a couple of Aldermen. We have some initiatives, several things we're working on that I don't want to put off for a month. I will put that together with a group - people who have mentioned they are willing to serve on it, thank you. I will save other handouts that I had and give them out when we meet as a committee.

Executive Session

At approximately 8 p.m. Alderman Nihill MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss the following items:

1. From Attorney Francis Teodosio
RE: City of Ansonia UPSEU/Local 424-Unit 28/ Municipal Employees Collective Bargaining Agreement

And invited Attorney Teodosio, Corporation Counsel Blake, Mayor Della Volpe and Tara Kolakowski to remain in the Aldermanic Chambers; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Return to Regular Session

At approximately 8:54 p.m., Alderman Adamowski MOVED to return to regular session; SECONDED by Alderman Madigosky. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Motions from Executive Session

1. From Attorney Francis Teodosio
RE: City of Ansonia UPSEU/Local 424-Unit 28/ Municipal Employees Collective Bargaining Agreement

Alderman Nihill MOVED to approve the contract as negotiated by the City with the Union; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski.

Alderman	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Adamowski	X		
Duffus			
Stowe	X		
Tripp	X		
Jeanette	X		
Macero			
Fainer	X		
Beall	X		
Radin	X		
Madigosky	X		
Nihill	X		
Marini	X		
Knapp	X		
Sharkey	X		
TOTALS	12	0	0

A roll call vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Adjournment

Alderman Knapp MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Tripp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary
Ansonia Board of Aldermen